(d) the steps which Government proposes to take to restore rail coach orders to the BEML to prevent its closure?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The coach requirement has reduced which can be met in-house by Railways own production units.

(c) It has come to the notice of this Ministry through media reports.

(d) M/s. BEML have been advised to diversify and look for alternative load from elsewhere in the absence of Railways' requirement.

Borrowings by Railways to Pay Salaries

278. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments' attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Railways to borrow 2,300 cr. to pay Salaries" appearing in "The Observer of Business and Politics", New Delhi dated the 13th June, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for resorting to such huge borrowings; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the financial performance of the Railways particularly when it has expressed its inability even to pay its annual contribution (Dividend) to the General Revenues during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal as there is no need.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An Action Plan has been launched on all the Zonal Railways to augment earnings and reduce working expenses to generate additional resources internally. Railways have paid the dividend to the General Revenues consistently. Budget Estimates 1994-95 presented to Parliament also provide for meeting in full the Dividend Liability as per recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee.

Purchase of Raidway Wagons

279. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the purchase of Rail Wagons during 1994-95;

(b) the number of wagons purchased so far during the period;

(c) the steps taken to acquire remaining wagons for the Railways; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Target for procurement of wagons for 1994-95 as budgeted is 18000 four wheelers. However, based on the present trend of traffic, the need has been provisionally assessed at 10,400 four wheelers.

(b) to (d) It is proposed to procure about 10,400 four wheelers in 1994-95. Out of this 7600 four wheelers have been ordered on Industry and 1000 four wheelers on Railway Workshops. For the balance 1800 four wheelers a tender is in hand which will be finalised in due course.

During April—June '94, 967.5 wagons in terms of four wheelers have been procured. The balance are expected to be supplied during the remaining part of the year.